## Plauche's Environmental, L.L.C. P.O. Box 186 Plaucheville, LA 71362 C 318 240 -4374

June 15, 2015

Garry Lewis Properties
Mr. Garry Lewis
17457 Wes McLin Road, Suite A

Subject: DELINEATION REPORT PROVIDED BY ELOS DATED 12-22-2014

Parish - Livingston

Section - 3

Township - 7 South

Range - 4 East

Acreage - 24±

Northern most point located at 30° 28′ 04.224″ North Latitude, 90° 48′ 07.848″ West Longitude (ELOS)

Dear Mr. Lewis,

At your request I have reviewed the above referenced delineation report and agree totally with a conclusion of non-wetlands. As I understand the Corps rejected ELOS' delineation. I am anxious to learn the details.

The only history the  $24 \pm$  acre tract has is timber production. It is an allowed practice to shove tree tops in drainage features to create temporary crossings, however they should be removed when no longer needed. You identified several crossings still in place, removed them, thus allowing contained water to drain. Working with Furcy Zerinque, Corps, on Mallard Lakes Subdivision off of Hoo Shoo Too Road the containment levee for the 200  $\pm$  acre lake burst, draining the lake into the Amite River. Furcy declared it *effectively* 

## drained.

Dr. John Bruza, Chief, Surveillance and Enforcement Section, Corps, New Orleans District commented during a site visit on another project that once the trapped water is released, the area affected by the blockage becomes effectively drained and will soon lose wetland vegetation, which are only present due ruts created by logging operations.

This also occurred in the development of Suma Crossing north of I-12 on a 2 acre ± tract, which we could never get classified as non wetlands. Drainage from this tract flowed directly into a 3 barrel cement culvert under I -12, however, the exhaust end on the south side was classified as non wetlands. I asked Corps personnel present for a reason. I got the answer, it is effectively drained. If this area is classified as such, surely we won't have problems with the 24  $\pm$  tract.

Suma Lake located in the Suma Crossing development was once crop land farmed by Mr. Wes McLin, previous owner. Dr. John Bruza, Corps, released the lake as non wetlands because the Corps did not have jurisdiction of the property prior to the lake being dug, therefore, the lake was not jurisdictional.

Since the 24 ± acre tract consists of Satsuma series soil which is a non wetland soil then one of the three required parameters, (wetland soils, wetland hydrology and hydrophytic vegetation) is absent and it should not be jurisdictional.

Raymond J. Plauche

The Three (3) subject depressions on the following photos were investigated as potential isolated wetlands.

Their origin is from logging machinery. They are not manmade and they are not natural. The surface grey color is from dragging tree tops. The photos show the color and property of Satsuma ridge soil type being brought to the surface by crawfish. These depressions are absent the required soil type and the required vegetation is absent.

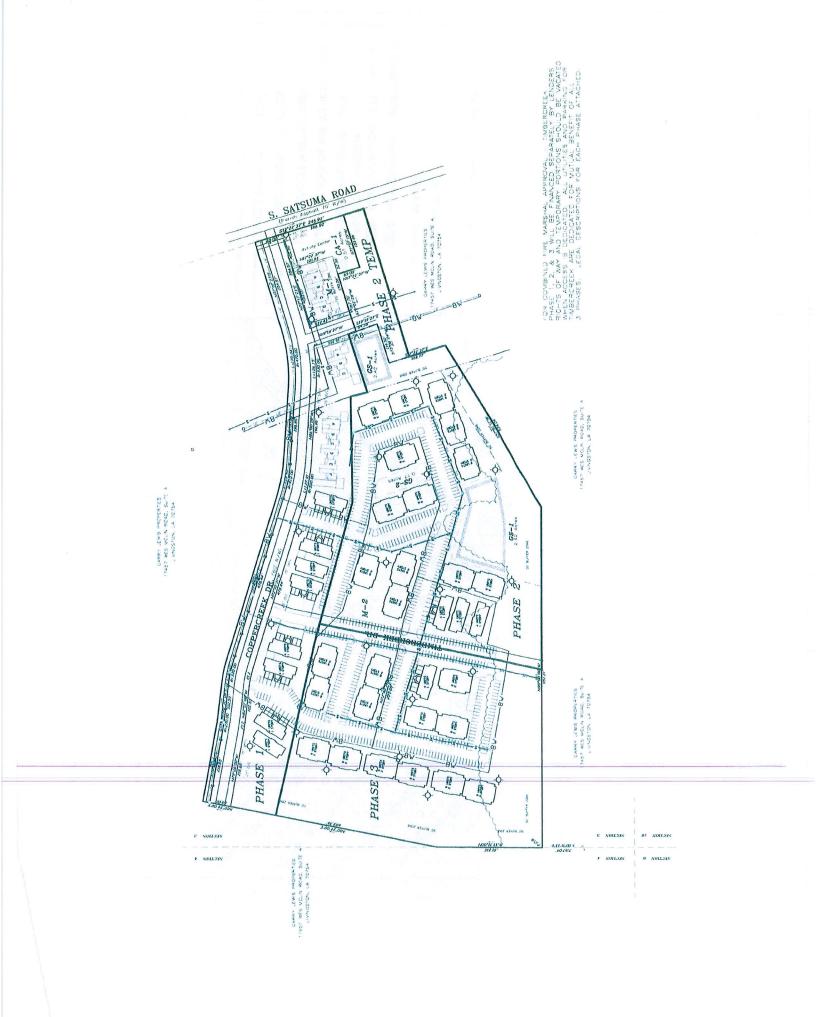
The remaining photograph shows the predominant property features including the recent timber cutting. The photo shows the frequent practice of planting pines on bid rows as part of silviculture, and the absence of all three of the concurrently required conditions to qualify as wetlands.

Raymond Plauche

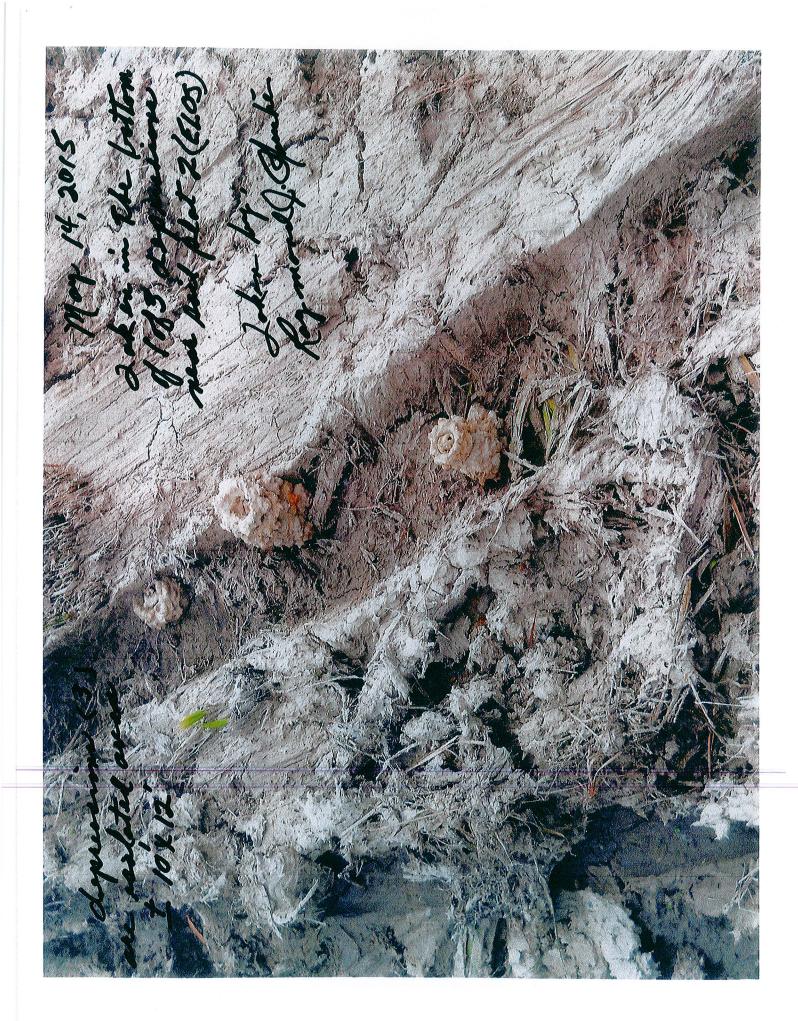
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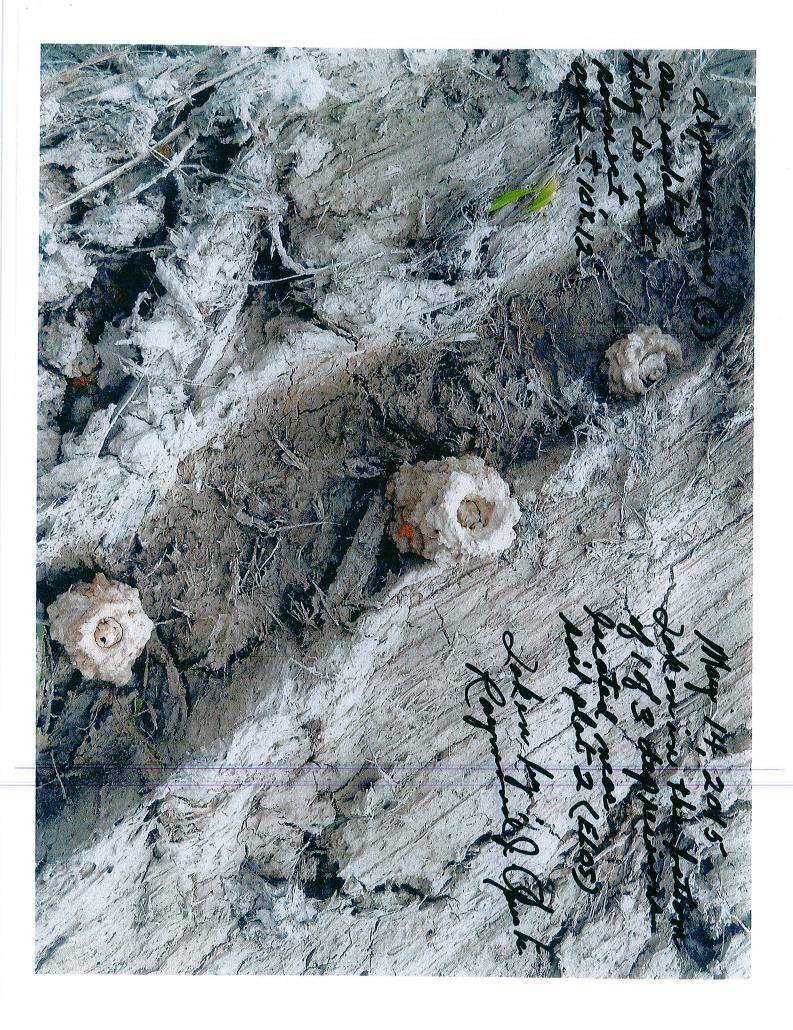


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I was employed with the Corps of Engineers from 1986 thru Spring, 1984 when beginning my own environmental practice. I served in the Marine Corps until 1974.

During my 8 years at the USACE, the determination and delineation delay was sometimes no more than 2 weeks and if it was not done in 6 weeks, Dr. John Bruza would come in and question us as to why it was not completed and returned to landowner.

If the work load was heavy, additional personnel were brought in from other districts to prevent unreasonable delays.

A 6-8 month delay does not reflect a reasonable understanding of property rights of landowners who have voluntarily delayed their property use to be assured of a determination. On the current site it has been visited by 3 botanists from the Corps of Engineers since submitted in December, 2014. The companion 19 acre tract has been visited 3 times by USACE Botanist Mr. Windham since submitted November, 2014, and the first probe of soil type was the last visit June 9, 2014 (according to Timber Manager, Al Suggs Jr.).

Neither of these have been fully determined as of this date.

These USACE personnel, and particularly the regulatory chief are so familiar with this property by scores of visits and permits during the last 3 years to make this delay a mockery of objectivity requirements. In fact, the East boarder of this 24 acres is a permitted drainage ditch and utility right of way.

Raymond Plauche

Janke June 15,2015
Date